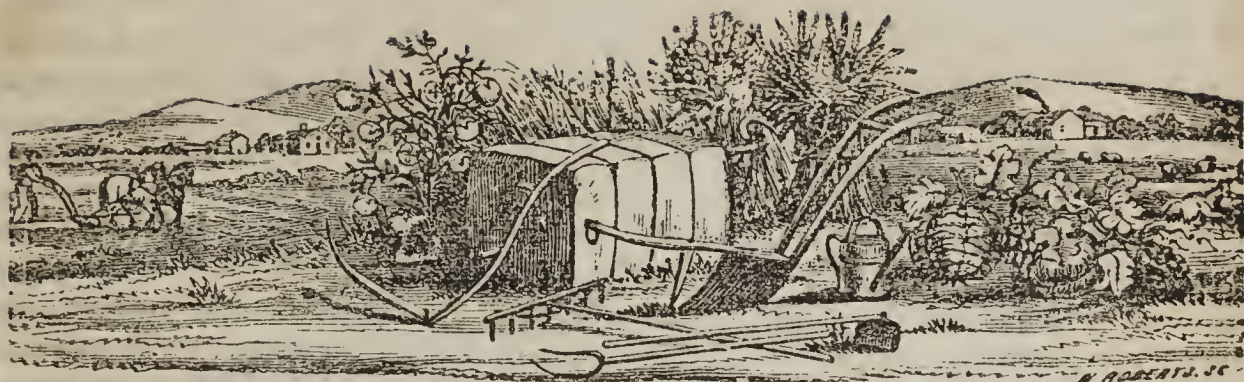


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# THE FARMER AND PLANTER

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. VIII.

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## On the Resuscitation of Worn-out Lands, based upon Actual Experiments, by a Planter.

BY R. J. GAGE, FAIR FOREST, S. C.

And he gave it for his opinion, "that whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together."

The resuscitation of exhausted soil is becoming daily a question of more vital importance to the Southern people. It matters not whether we view it as a question of plantation or political economy, the issues are equally grave, and our eyes cannot be much longer shut to the consequences. As a question of plantation economy, we are rapidly being reduced to a choice of evils, to resuscitate our exhausted

soils and preserve our forests, or move to the far west. As a question of political economy, it is even more important—every man of common observation must have noticed how rapidly we are losing the better portion of our population—those who constituted our army at the ballot box in peace, and in the field in time of war. The steady, industrious farmer of small means, cannot maintain his position amongst us, the high price of land prevents him from adding to his farm, and hedged about by the wealthier planter, he is either forced in self-defence, or tempted by a high price to sell out and remove to the west. Thus the small farms are constantly being absorbed by the larger plantations, and in lieu of a sturdy yeomanry, a steady, industrious rural population, we are establishing a land of negro quarters.

Is it at all marvellous that under this policy the increase of our white population should annually grow less, and the black greater? South Carolina during the last decade, has fallen behind every State in the Union, in the increase of her white population. She has descended from her rank as the tenth State in the Union, to the twenty-third. While the increase of her slave population has amounted to near 13 per cent., her increase in white population has descended to about six per cent.

Under this state of things, it is the bounden duty of every lover of his country to direct his earnest attention to this subject, and make such suggestions as he may think useful. There is no question more closely connected with the welfare of the State—none which calls more loudly for mature deliberation and fair discussion, and none which is surrounded by greater difficulties.



The policy of resuscitating an exhausted soil depends very much upon its character, and the fertility of a soil mainly depends upon the geological formation upon which it rests, and out of which it was necessarily made.

We will take, for the sake of illustration, a granite rock; by the action of rains, dews, freezings and the atmosphere, this rock is crumbled into dust—this dust contains lime, potash, soda and other minerals, now rendered soluble and fit food for plants by the operation of nature, and out of it first springs up mosses, lichens and the lowest order of plants; these strike their roots into the soil, bringing up more soda, potash and the like, to the surface, they spread out their little spongioles and rob every drop of water of its ammonia—they die and return their bodies to the dust, to fit it for the production of a higher order of plants to succeed them. In the course of time, grasses, weeds, shrubs and trees follow, until we have the magnificent forest, by its shade protecting the soil from the sun, striking its roots deep down into the bowels of the earth, to bring up to the surface mineral food for plants, spreading out its network of spongioles to drink up every drop of rain, and protect the soil from washing, dropping its leaves and fruit to cover and enrich, returning to its mother a tribute for what it received from her.

Such is nature's operation—what is man's? He fells the trees and removes them—he plows up the soil and exposes it to the parching rays of the sun, and to the leaching of the rains during winter and summer. He grows crops upon it, robbing it of its mineral salts and vegetable matter—removes them and never returns anything. Year after year this process is carried on, until at length exhausted nature refuses to make any return for his labors. He then ungratefully turns her out to take care of herself and goes in search of virgin soils to despoil.

Now how does nature go about restoring her wasted substance? She sets the soil in broom-sedge to protect it from the sun and the leaching and wearing away by the rains—it converts the minerals drawn up from the subsoil by its roots into food for a higher order of plants; after a while briars, weeds and young pines begin to spring up. The pine tree strikes its roots deep into the earth and brings up mineral manures not to be converted into wood, but into leaves to fall again upon the earth and enrich it.

It is a beautiful provision of nature, that while the trunk and branches of the pine are

deficient in salts, its leaves and bark abound in the most important inorganic elements of plants.

What is the course then, obviously pointed out to us by nature's operations? is it not to plow deep, to disintegrate the subsoil, to call nature to our aid in supplying the mineral substances required by plants, and to supply the necessary amount of vegetable matter? How to do this most economically, is the question—the great question for the Southern planter. It implies time, rest, rotation—three great stumbling blocks in agricultural improvement. We will *never take time* until we abandon the present system, we will never rest or rotate until we study a little more critically the art of reducing the area of cultivation, and increasing the production. So long as the present policy attains, to plant all you can possibly "tend", to run after new implements, not that we may improve our culture, but that we may cultivate more, it is worse than nonsense to talk of reform. We wish to impress the idea upon the planter, that we must reduce our improvement to a system—we must have a leading idea,—a design to carry out—an end to accomplish, and all the operations of the plantation must move in that direction and be subservient to it.

One thing must be borne in mind, that the susceptibility of a soil's improvement depends upon its original fertility. A once fertile soil can be more readily and cheaply resuscitated than a poor one, for the simple reason that its *subsoil* contains the elements of fertility. A soil naturally poor, cannot be made rich by artificial means, but at a ruinous cost. There may be exceptions to this, owing to peculiar circumstances, but they belong to that class of exceptions which proves the rule.

The cost of reclaiming a plantation, depends upon so many contingencies, that it will be impossible to prescribe any course applicable to all, and in the following paper it will be the object of the writer not to indulge in theoretical suggestions, or deal with scientific terms, but merely to chalk out a general system, based upon his own experience, and leave every individual to adopt it to his own circumstances.

An experience of fourteen years spent in reclaiming a worn out plantation, has convinced the writer that no man can resuscitate an exhausted plantation by the manure heaps, but at a ruinous cost. He must not only make manure, but he must practice the most rigid economy in all things and seize upon all the available helps in his reach.

The main obstacle to be removed from our



path at the outset, is, the common opinion that a man *must* plant all the land he has open in something, merely because he has it.

You must resolve to cut off a portion for rest, not to be pastured to death, but to be rested in the true sense of the word, and to increase the production of the remainder by better cultivation and the application of manure.

**BETTER CULTIVATION.**—Deep plowing we place at the bottom of all successful cultivation and successful manuring. The point has been settled, we believe, that the food of plants must be in a state of solution to be made available; it is manifest then, that a deep and thorough preparation and admixture of the soil will be the most certain means of securing the food of plants, and storing it up for future use. By deep plowing, too, the atmosphere obtains access to inert minerals in the subsoil, and readily converts them into soluble food for plants. By deep plowing the soil is enabled to abstract and to retain large quantities of ammonia falling in dews and rains upon it. By deep plowing you enable the soil to retain moisture for the use of plants during dry weather, and by deep plowing your manure is protected against evaporation, or leaching more efficiently.

If it be borne in mind that all particles which constitute the food of plants, can be dissolved by rains and carried away, and that clay will rob all water percolating through it, of its salts, the importance of deep plowing and a thorough admixture of the sub with the surface soil becomes apparent at once.

To secure this end more effectually, guard drains and horizontal plowing upon all broken lands, should be carefully and judiciously adopted. It is folly to lay down any rules upon this "vexed question." The variety of soil, irregularity of curves and slopes, area of water shed, and depth of plowing, all must be taken into consideration, and the planter alone, can be the proper judge of the system adapted to his wants. The number of failures, and the doubts entertained by some of the best planters in the country, as to the practicability of it, are to be charged mainly to the following blindly the rules laid down by others, before examining the ground and carefully noting all the difficulties to be overcome.

The great error, generally, is, that we begin too late—after the soil has been washed into gullies and the water becomes almost irresistible.

If the planter would *begin* upon the proper principle, and construct his guard drains before

the texture of the soil had been broken down he would be much more successful in his efforts to save from waste the cream of his land.

**MANURE.**—The value of manure depends upon the food of the animal, and the cost of its manufacture and application, upon circumstances. It is somewhat amusing to read the directions generally given by agricultural writers upon this subject. You have details of hundreds of wagon loads of muck as a divisor to be deposited in the barn-yard—spacious manure sheds covered over—manure to be daily spread out, and three or four times its bulk of muck to be added, thoroughly stirred and turned over, and plaster, coal dust, &c., added.

All this looks very pretty upon paper, and may do very well for fancy farmers and market gardeners, but it is not adapted to our condition, and is much better calculated to frighten off new beginners, than to induce them to try the experiment.

How many farms are there in the country where *muck* can be obtained in any quantity? To make manure economically, you must have your lots well arranged for the purpose, and the material for its manufacture convenient. It is a good plan to dig circular basins in the lowest part of your lots, two or three feet deep, and fifteen feet in diameter, and throw out the clay upon the rim of the basin. During rainy days cart your manure out of the stables to the basins, and to every shovel full of manure thrown in, add a shovel full of clay from the rim of the basin; when the mound is completed, cover the whole surface closely with clay, charcoal dust, or plaster. The quantity will thus be doubled and the mass improved in quality also. The cattle should be stalled and well littered during the winter, and the manure treated in the same way. As the urine of cattle contains a much larger proportion of fertilizing salts than their excrement, every precaution should be taken to prevent its waste. Lots for hogs to use in, well littered, should be convenient, and as the manure of the hog is very volatile, care should be taken to compost it frequently. Sheep do best when changed from lot to lot, and by moving them about, a vast deal of manure can be applied at very little cost. From some experiments made in moving sheep from place to place during the winter, salting and feeding them upon the ground, and afterward plowing in the manure, we are satisfied that the Spanish proverb, "Sheep have golden feet," is not altogether a mere picture, for an astonishing amount of manure can be made from them. The sheep loves a high, dry spot for his night's lodging,



and does best when not confined to low places.

The accumulation of litter is one of the greatest drawbacks in the manufacture of manure on most of our Southern plantations, and it always must be, until we can grow more grass. If we could provide our cattle with an abundance of nutritious grass during the winter, we could then use all the straw, tops and corn stalks, now saved for food.

It is miserable policy to skin the woodlands—the timber will be injured by the process, and the land, if ever reduced to cultivation, will wear out in a few years. Such has been our experience. Our forests are becoming daily more rare and valuable, and should be preserved.

It will be found, however, a good plan to throw dams of brush wood across the ravines in the woods, for the purpose of collecting the leaves and trash, that would otherwise make its escape. This natural compost will be found valuable, either applied as a divisor to the manure heap, or to the land. A field treated in this way during the last winter, at very little expense or trouble, (the work being done chiefly by small hands,) has this fall turned off a very fair crop of cotton. One should make use of all the weeds about fence corners, lots and ditches that can be made available; they make a fine litter, and are readily convertible into manure. We have seen tons of that abominable pest, May weed or Fennel, taken from a small lot, and converted into good manure in a very short time. Lots convenient to the barn, planted in Jerusalem artichokes, will furnish an incredible amount of green litter, easily mowed down, while the roots in the fall will supply a pretty good food for stock hogs. Millet and green corn may be made to play an important part—so might the Oregon, Japan or any other pea; but no plant, we believe, from our short experience, will be found equal to the Chinese Sugar Millet, in supplying all manner of stock with good nutritious food, and at the same time litter for the compost heap. Its value as a cheap food and fertilizer, we consider very far above its syrup-producing properties. We are satisfied that five or six acres of this plant about a barnyard, cut and fed green to stock of all kinds, from the first of July to frost, will achieve wonders. It is certainly capable of being made a valuable assistant to all who wish to carry out a system of improvement. The hauling out and application of manure is a very serious obstacle in the way of improvement. Experience has convinced us that the sooner the manure is applied the better; if put off until

spring, it will be slovenly done, and the waste by evaporation will be immense.

We have been more successful in the application of manure to cotton than any other crop. It never fires—never suffers from drought, and the manure can be so applied that it will never be disturbed by the plow, and subjected to leaching or evaporation.

During the winter, lay off your rows, say 3 feet, with a scooter; run a two horse subsoil plow in the furrow, then scatter your manure in it, and immediately lap two furrows upon the manure with a turn plow; now run your subsoil plow in the furrows of the turn plow, (throwing the wing out), this will subsoil the intermediate space, and leave the soil in a good condition for finishing the bed before planting. A field well manured in this way will yield remunerating crops for four or five years without additional manure, and can be so easily kept in heart that it will require very little manure to keep it up.

Soils are less exhausted by the production of cotton, than any of our field crops. In removing 100 lbs. of seed cotton from an acre of land, you rob the soil of but a little more than one-fourth of the inorganic manure which you would in removing 20 bushels of corn, and if you would return the seed to the soil, the loss would be trifling. It is the *modus operandi* which does the mischief—the running of rows up and down hill, and the clean culture, leaving the soil exposed to the sun, and the continued leaching of rains during the summer and winter.

This, in a great degree, may be obviated by sowing down at the last plowing Egyptian Oats—they will in some measure arrest the waste of fluids, hold the soil together, and at the same time furnish a very good hog pasture during the winter.

Nothing can be more trying to soils than the repeated shallow freezings and thawings which take place during our winters, and every effort in our power should be made to arrest this drain upon their fertility. Experience has convinced us that if soils cannot be turned over soon enough for a new crop of grass to grow upon them before winter sets in, that there is a decided loss by the operation.

After the planting of the crop, very little attention will be paid to the making of manure, and as we think it rather hazardous to be collecting masses of compost in the neighborhood of our dwellings, to undergo decomposition during autumn, we prefer using movable cowpens.

On every well conducted plantation, a per-



tion of it should every year be at rest; upon this, pens may be made from April to December, a period of eight months. Twenty head of cattle will manure about an acre per month; the soil should be deeply plowed and subverted at least twice during the time. The April and May pens will yield fine crops of hay, peas or sugar millet; the June, July, August and September pens may be drilled in turnips with intermediate rows of barley for winter soiling, and as a protection against leaching. All cleanings up about your quarters, barn lots, ash hoppers, wood yards, fence corners, and machine lots, should be hauled into these pens whenever it may be convenient, and composted with the droppings of the cattle—it will add considerably to the area of your manured land, at very little cost. In fact, in making manure, no stone should be left unturned. Upon a plantation well arranged for the manufacture of manure, and abounding in the raw material, one, by judicious management, may manure two acres per hand during the year. This looks like slow business, but we should not be deterred by that.

Every acre reclaimed, is something made; a conversion of what was worthless, into a thing of value; an investment that pays, in lieu of a losing one. Nor is this all—by manuring a small portion of your farm, you are enabled to make maximum crops of your staple articles, and to devote larger portions of your land to the purposes of rest and "*Green manuring*."—This is a branch of husbandry almost unknown amongst us—one to which too much importance is attached by some, and too little by others. A soil cannot be made fertile by simply turning under a green crop, but at a loss of time too great for profitable farming; but it can be ameliorated and kept in good heart, and by the application of very light doses of manure, be made to pay well.

Clover stands pre-eminent as the crop for this purpose, but it is doubtful whether it can be made available in our dry and variable climate for any good. The pea has been called the "clover of the South". In some respects the application is correct, it is well adapted to our climate, will grow upon almost any soil, draw heavily upon the atmosphere for food, as well as upon the subsoil for inorganic manures, but it stops at the very point where the great virtue of clover begins. It dies at the first frost, while clover grows on luxuriantly, drawing food from the atmosphere, drinking up the rains and dews, and storing up in the soil the inorganic elements brought up by its probing roots. The soil is protected during nearly half of the most

trying seasons of the year from the leaching and washing away of rains.

We have no doubt, however, but the pea crop could be made a valuable ameliorator, and by light applications of plaster, might do wonders in resuscitating exhausted soils; but the work must be done for a purpose; the vine should be turned under green, and small grain sown for the purpose of protecting the soil during the winter, if we expect to derive any permanent advantage by its use.

If scientific authority can be relied on, there is not much gained by turning under a crop which has matured and gone through its decomposition above ground. Johnson says, "In no other form can the same crop convey to the soil an equal amount of enriching matter as in that of green leaves and stems." He also remarks that one of the important results of turning in a green crop is, that it decomposes immediately, and the first crop which follows is benefitted by it.

Close observers from the North have declared the opinion that they have seen more rain fall here in a few days, than falls for months at the North. The heavy floods of rain which we experience during the winter and spring, together with the repeated freezings and thawings of the surface soil, followed by high and drying winds, are very serious difficulties to be encountered, and if there be no plant growing upon the soil to protect it, its fertility must be leached out or much of it washed away. For that reason we advocate the work being early done, so as to allow a network of grass roots to form, or the sowing of small grain for protection. We are disposed to dwell upon this point, because we do not think a sufficient degree of attention has been directed to it generally by planters.

In a climate where the food required by plants is locked up by frost during nearly six months of the year, there is but little danger to be dreaded. So far as we have learned anything by experience, our opinion is adverse to winter plowing. Wherever a clean surface has been exposed during the winter months, we have found the soil tougher and "run together" more than anywhere else. Upon the most tenacious soils, experiments have been made, and at the breaking up in spring, the unplowed land was found to be the mellowest and the most productive. During the July and August of 1855, cowpeas, plowed and subsoiled a lot of tenacious clay; bedded and drilled turnips and hoed and plowed them. In the spring broke



up the lot for potatoes, and desiring to enlarge the patch, we directed the plowman to extend his rows into a spot of ground which had produced oats (same time as turnip lot); the difference was so striking that it even astonished the negroes, and the superiority in mellowness continued during the season. We can account for it only on the principle that the soil is protected from washing and leaching during the winter, and that the weight of fibrous roots spreading through the soil, is greater and richer in fertilizing matter, than the dry top turned under in fall plowing. Plow early, plough deep and do not be afraid to turn up the clay. With mineral or special manures, our experience has been unsatisfactory. At times we have derived astonishing results from the application of the Improved Super Phosphate Lime (Mapes') which is a compound of guano, bone dust, and sulphuric acid; again we have been woefully disappointed. Whether our varied success is to be attributed to the soils, seasons or purity of the compound, is a question upon which we are not prepared to venture an opinion.

The immense demand for these manures about cities for market gardens, and upon farms where the cost of transportation is not prohibitory, has advanced the price, and at the same time, doubtless increased the temptation to manufacture spurious compounds. Even if any confidence could be placed in their virtue, the exorbitant tax levied by most of the Rail Road Companies, would prevent their use in the interior. We have derived great benefit from rolling our cotton seed, before planting, in Super Phosphate of Lime. It starts the plant off rapidly, and gives it a strong, vigorous habit, which will enable it to resist the attacks of insects and endure the changes of the seasons. It is no ordinary advantage to start a plant off with a vigorous, growing constitution.

There is a great lack of good implements upon most of our plantations, and to do good work one should have a good tool. The turn plow or "twister" in common use, is a poor affair, doing its work in a slovenly manner, and leaving the soil grooved out and much more subject to wash. Nor is this the only objection; no two smiths give the same curve—it is all guess-work, and much the same way is it with the stock. A plow should run perfectly steady, requiring merely the weight of the horse to be thrown into the collar, and a light pressure of the plowman's hands upon the handle. The Northern turn plows are constructed upon the proper principles, and perform admirably, but

being cast metal, are not well adapted to our negroes or our soils generally. If a plow could be constructed so that wrought points could be made by a common blacksmith, it would be very desirable. The same objection holds in regard to the Northern subsoil plow—a point will last but a few days—may break in a few hours, and operations are stopped. On this account we have generally used the Broyle's subsoil plow, a very good implement, and as well adapted to our present wants as anything to be found.

**PASTURING LAND.**—The hoof of no animal should be allowed to tread upon a soil undergoing improvement, until it is well set in grass or weeds, and not even then if the soil be wet. After it is well set in grass, hogs, calves, colts and sheep may be allowed to graze upon it in dry weather.

The temptation to turn stock upon a good pasture is so great, that in order to enable us to resist it, we have made it a part of our system to plant mixed crops in the same divisions—oats and cotton, corn and wheat, &c. We are then driven to the necessity of giving a portion of the field a certain rest. Oat stubble treated in this way, and plowed under in September, will furnish a good hog pasture in winter, and if turned under in spring, improve land.

Every planter should have a permanent pasture with plenty of good water and shade in it, convenient to his stables. It will save many a heavy draft upon the corn crib—improve the health of his horses, enable him to keep his stock under his own eye, and avoid the tramping and skinning of his cultivated fields. It is most assuredly high time that the unwise practice of turning every living thing we possess that will root, graze or browse, upon the wheat, corn and cotton fields, the moment we take off the crop, to shift for themselves till mid-winter, should be abandoned.

**ROTATION.**—A judicious rotation of crops is, perhaps, the most difficult question for adjustment in all our plantation economy, and must ever be in a country where plantations are cut up into all shapes and patterns, where soils differ so much in character, and the settled policy of the country has so long been to cultivate all the land that will produce anything. That such a policy, however, is wise, and should not be resisted, we can desire no better proof than the fact, that in all countries where improvement has been carried out successfully and economically, rotation has been one of the main reliances. If the proprietors of farms



worth from \$25 to \$100 per acre, can afford to let land rest, is there any good reason why we cannot do it? The average value of land in the New England States, is \$20.27; in the Middle State, \$28.05; in the Southern States, \$5.34. It would appear from these figures that we could afford to rest, if the people of the other States can afford such a policy. The difficulty once overcome by our population, we would have no fears of its being generally adopted and successfully practiced. There is no lack of skill, energy or determination in the Southern planter, but like all tillers of the soil, he is eminently conservative and better satisfied to bear the ills we have than to fly to others that we know not of.

The true policy in producing a rotation is never, if possible, to allow one exhausting crop to follow another; if you are driven to it, then let rest or manure follow it. Cotton, corn, wheat, with an application of cotton seed as manure and rest, is a rotation successfully practiced by some planters.

Let us suppose that a planter has 270 acres of arable land, and works ten hands, and that he can, by judicious management, manure 20 acres per annum.

Field No. 1 is planted in cotton, 50 acres, 20 of that manured  
Wheat, 60 acres,  
Oats, 30 acres = 90.

Field No. 2 is planted in corn, 90 acres, 90

Field No. 2 is at rest, 90 acres, = 90 = 270 acres

Field No. 1 is planted in cotton, 50 acres, 20 more manured  
At rest and peas, 40 acres, = 90

Field No. 3 is at rest, 50 acres,

Cotton seeded and sowed in  
wheat and oats, 40 acres, = 90

Field No. 3 is in corn and  
peas, broadcast, 90 acres, = 90 = 270 acres.

Field No. 1 planted in cotton, 50 acres, 20 all manured  
At rest and in peas, 40 acres, = 90

Field No. 2 is planted in corn, 90

Field No. 3 is at rest, 90 = 270 acres

Field No. 1 planted in cotton, 50 acres,

At rest and in peas, 40 acres, = 90

Field No. 2 is at rest, 30 acres,

Wheat and oats, 50 acres, = 90

Field No. 3 is in corn, 90 = 270 acres

Under this treatment Field No. 1 at the end of the fourth year, will have been nearly all manured, and if well cultivated, should be in good heart, and capable of yielding fine crops, while No. 2 and 3 have not been so severely cropped as to be much injured. Under this rotation, if desirable to increase the area in cotton, which is sometimes the case when the provision crop is large, a few cotton acres might be added to No. 1, and the corn area reduced, or the corn area reduced and the small grain area increased.

We throw out these suggestions more for the

purpose of drawing attention to the subject than anything else. A course that may suit the plantation of the writer, may be very illly adapted to the wants of others. The planter must decide for himself—he alone knows how he can divide his plantations, what he can make from such and such fields, which require rest and manure most, which is adapted to grain or cotton, &c. A general and practicable system is all that can be chalked out, and the adaptation and execution of it must be left to those most deeply interested. In connection with the rotation, we have said nothing of patches, pastures, &c.; as all these matters have been heretofore sufficiently dwelt upon to be considered a part of the system.

Experience has convinced us of the fact that in a planting country, such as ours, the main reliance for improvement must be on home-made manures, deep plowing, judicious rotation and rest, about all of which the planter must act according to the circumstances which surround him. He must be the judge of his own necessities, familiar with his own resources, systematic in his management, indefatigable in his exertions, and resolute in carrying out all his plans, he must be prepared to run the gauntlet of all the jibes and jeers of every fellow who can hoe a row or lay off a land—to have ridiculous stories enough told on him to fill a book, and to be called all sorts of funny names, and if he cannot stand these tests, he had better make up his mind not to make an effort at resuscitation.

For the Farmer and Planter.

#### Improved Head Blocks for Circular Saws.

MR. EDITOR:—I have long since been fully convinced of the fact, that a well constructed Circular Saw Mill lacked but a slight improvement in the Head Blocks, to constitute a combination of very perfect machinery for the production of lumber far surpassing any of the old plans, or more recent improvements, with the straight saw for the like purpose. And I now have the pleasure to give to the public, through the medium of the Farmer and Planter, a desideratum long desired by the owners and workers of Circular Saws, for all must have experienced great inconvenience from having to turn over the last slab to make a saving or clear finish of the log. Now the improvement which I have made, and for which I shall not, Yankee-like, claim a patent, supercedes entirely this necessity, and is so simple in its structure that any good blacksmith need not fear to undertake the



addition of it to one of George Page & Co.'s Standard and Screw Head Blocks.

It consists in nothing more than the addition of a *Dog* fastened to the slide of the upright Standard with two teeth, so set as for one to work on each side of it. The *Dog* has two legs six inches long, extending from the teeth down to each side of the slide of the Standard and working on a three-fourth inch bolt, which goes through them and this part of the Standard. The hole for this bolt should be drilled as low down as practicable, and so set that the legs of the *Dog* will stand nearly or quite erect, and if varying from a perpendicular with the top leaning a little from the log, when the teeth shall be driven into the side of it. The teeth should be of such length as for the Standard to prevent them from penetrating the log sufficiently deep for the Saw to touch them when the slab becomes quite thin. With this view they should be made to project about one inch beyond the face of the Standard, and should always be driven until the cross bar, or that part of the *Dog* which unites them, should finally rest against the back of the Standard. When so driven, the slab will be held securely to its place until the Saw reduce it to one and one-fourth of an inch in thickness, notwithstanding it shall no longer rest on the Head Blocks, but be supported entirely by these *Dogs*.

It may be well for me here to say that these *Dogs* are not intended to supersede those already in use, but to serve as auxiliaries to them, and need not be used at all until the log is *slabbed* and *turned down*, when they should be driven securely into the side of it. There is no Blocking or wedging required, if the cross bar be made to rest against the back of the upright Standard, if not, a wedge should be slipped between it and the back of the Standard, or otherwise the slab, when it becomes too thin to rest on the Head Block, will drop from the face of the Standard and make the plank over thickness.

The teeth of the *Dogs* which I use are wedge fashioned, about three-fourths of an inch wide, and to make them hold the better, are battered or upset, a little at the edge or point, and enter the wood parallel with its grain. And as they move on a hinge or bolt and necessarily describe a circle they will not enter freely and hold very well, unless the Standard on which they have their pivot be backed about one-half of an inch so as to enter them at the lower point of the arc which they describe, then drive half-way, run up the Standard to the log, and then finish driv-

ing. Those are the only precautions to secure satisfactory result. And any one availing himself of the advantages to be derived from this simple piece of importance—and what Circular Saw Mill man is there that will not? should feel himself under special obligations to obtain for the Farmer and Planter at least ten new subscribers, as a small equivalent for the service rendered him by it, and your friend and contributor.

P. Q.

*Pinaria, near Leesville, Lexington Dist., S. C. Jan. '57.*

#### For the Farmer and Planter. Fruit Culture.

MR. EDITOR:—Some years since you did me the honor to re-publish from the "Unionville Journal," several communications in which I mentioned certain experiments which I was then making in reference to the propagation of different varieties of fruits on other than their own stocks, and also, in regard to the cultivation and training of the grape vine.

The result of those experiments I now propose briefly to place before your readers.

The grape vine I have found will not thrive on a cold clay soil with any amount of nursing. The Catawba and Isabella will not even *live* upon it. Some of the other varieties do make out to live, but that is about all, for the fruit produced by them is both scanty and of inferior quality. The use of the trunk of the cedar with its branches somewhat entailed, then suggested, as a substitute for the ordinary arbour or espalier, has proved eminently successful. This experiment was suggested by my having observed the fine and abundant crops produced by a vine which had been suffered to run on an old peach tree, and it had the additional recommendation of being far more durable than the structures in common use. Moreover the cedar presents in its numerous twigs, proper objects for the tendrils of the vine to lay hold on, thus in a measure dispensing with the necessity of tying them up, a very troublesome operation.

This form of training the vine, which I will venture to call the *tree form*, is peculiarly adapted to those varieties which drop their leaves early in the season and suffer much from exposure to the direct rays of the sun; and amongst these the delicious Blands, Madiera derives the greatest advantage from it; indeed it is almost worthless without some such protection. My observation has led me to think that all the larger varieties would be much benefited by its adoption.

It is gratifying to perceive from the late ex-



hibition of capital wines of domestic manufacture that there is an increased interest being felt in the culture of the vine, and it is obviously true that no fruit can be grown, with us of the upper country, with more certainty and success. An experience of many years has fully convinced me that with care and proper attention the crop is well nigh unailing.

As regards grafting on stocks of a different character from the scions. I have found no advantage from using the plum as a stock for the peach, as respects the ravages of the borer. For whatever exemption, the plum, when left to itself, may enjoy from his attacks, when the peach is superadded to it, he becomes more destructive than he is even to the base and roots of the peach tree, in many instances having utterly destroyed the tree in the space of two or three years from the date of their union.

The pear, when worked on the thorn, made for the first year or two a most promising show of doing well, but just at the time when I was congratulating myself upon the prospect of an early fruition of my hopes, a sudden storm of wind laid all its honors of glittering leaves and snowy flowers in the dust. Upon examining into the cause of this sudden overthrow of my fond anticipations, I discovered that there never had been any real connexion between the woody fibres of the two, but that the union between them had been merely through a snarl on one side. The pear on the apple promises well at first, as it does on the thorn, and like that, brings the same disappointment. I have never known it to succeed unless where the point of junction has been placed so far beneath the surface as to cause the pear to form roots of its own, and this is of very uncertain occurrence. The same remarks may be made with reference to working the pear on the common quince, but on the Angers quince, a variety of much freer growth, it grows most thriftily and bears early. The French nurserymen are said to possess and use several other varieties of equal merit, but so far as I am informed, the Angers bear the palm of any yet introduced amongst us for the purpose of making fruitful dwarf pear trees. On their own stocks, the plum and cherry may be grafted both on the stem and limbs, in the same manner and with the same certainty of success as either the apple or the pear. But the peach does not take so readily when worked above ground, although in some instances I have known it do well. These are rare however, and by far the surer plan is to select small young trees, cut them off a little

below the surface and after inserting the scion to press the soil firmly around it being careful to cover every portion of the wound sufficiently to exclude the air. After this method, I have successfully grafted several hundred trees without the use of any kind of bandage or wax. Care should be taken however to select for stocks, such as are free from the borer. The presence of this inveterate enemy of the peach, may be readily detected by the appearance of gummy substance, in place of the proper sap, when the tree is cut off, and when this occurs the result of the operation is more than doubtful. The process of union between the scion and stock of the peach is more protracted generally than in any other fruit tree, and it requires a very considerable exercise of patience on the part of the operator to suffer it to remain unmolested; for very often the scion will wither down to the lowest bud long before it presents any shew of life. This one germ however will prove all sufficient should the work have been properly performed.

For several years past I have practiced grafting the apple some distance above the root. The advantages gained by this method over root grafting, consist in presenting to the parching rays of our August suns a stem of native growth, instead of one derived from a scion of foreign extraction and oftener of a much tenderer character, and also in removing the wound inflicted by the operation from the immediate access of the borer and aphid. For stocks I use nothing but seedlings of native growth, and no one who has a proper regard to the health, handsome appearance or durability of his orchard, should ever think of using any other.

D. JOHNSON.

December 15th, 1856.

For the Farmer and Planter.

#### — Plant your own Potatoes.

MR. EDITOR:—The season for planting the Irish Potatoe crop is in, and as there are many persons who follow the plan, of purchasing their seed potatoes annually, believing that nothing but a Northern or foreign potatoe will grow us a good crop, I have thought proper to give you the result of my experience and observation.

I have been planting potatoes of my own raising for a number of years, and my success has been quite sufficient to induce me to believe that it is perfect folly to exchange them for any other. Again we might insist on the economy of the plan of planting potatoes of our own raising but it would be needless, as every farmer should consult his best interest.



The time for planting the Irish potatoe seems just to be as a man may fancy. Some of my neighbors plant about the first of January, but this early planting does not generally insure them an earlier crop than those who plant about the first or middle of February. I usually plant about the middle of the month, and as my mode of planting differs from many others, you can have it for what it is worth.

In preparing my patch, I gather from the stable lot a top dressing of straw and manure, turn it under and pulverize the soil thoroughly, lay off my first row, drop the potatoes and fill the furrow half full of straw and manure, cover with a large shovel, also drop the furrow opened when covering in the same way, and continue dropping every furrow until I get through planting. Cover the whole patch six inches deep with leaves or pine straw, which is better. The Irish and sweet potatoe should both be dug at the same time and stored away in banks or houses in the same way, and my word for it, you will never be under the necessity of applying to a foreign market again.

A. M. B\*\*\*\*.

For the Agriculturist.

To preserve Bacon from Bugs and Skippers.

Mix black pepper with the salt, grind the pepper fine and allow one pound for 300 pounds of meat; and throw a hand full of china berries in the fire used to smoke your bacon once a day, (red pepper will not do). I have tried the black pepper and china berries for two years, with entire success, and with less trouble and expense, than many other methods that partially or wholly failed.

WM. YOUNG.

Gillisonville, S. C., January 17th, 1857.

REMARKS.—The above was written for the *Southern Agriculturist*, but after the discontinuance of that paper, was sent to us. We regret it did not come to hand earlier in the bacon curing season. Some have expressed fears of the effects of china berry smoke, but we cannot think it would prove injurious, unless used very freely. Children frequently eat china berries without any bad effects except to the worms. Since having China trees in our yards, the berries of which are frequently eaten by our little negroes, we but very rarely have a case of worms among them.—Ed. F. & P.

Varnish for Harness.—Take  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of Indian rubber, 1 gallon of spirits of turpentine, dissolve enough to make it into a jelly by keeping almost new milk warm: then take equal quantities of good linseed oil (in a hot state) and the above mixture, incorporate them well on a slow fire, and it is fit for use.

## Insects.

A close study of the habits and transformations of any one of the pernicious insects, (ball worm, wheat midge, caterpillar, &c.) by the practical and intelligent farmer, would prove not only a source of great pleasure, as leading him to a keener sense of the beautiful and wonderful works of nature, as exemplified in the singular transformations insects undergo before they assume the perfect or fly-state, but also a source of great profit, as by experimenting upon them in all the stages of their existence, he might perchance discover a practical method by which their extermination might be effected. Indeed, it is absolutely necessary that a farmer should be able to recognize the insects that destroy his crops, in all their various and wonderful transformations, before any effectual remedy can be applied; as in one stage of their life they may be suffered to live and enjoy themselves; nay, even sometimes be protected, while in another stage we persecute and destroy them by every means in our power. For example, the beautiful butterfly of the *papilio asterias*. Any humane and kind hearted farmer, unversed in entomology who should see their children chasing and killing the beautiful black and yellow spotted butterfly, that was flitting joyously over his vegetable garden, in the spring or early summer, apparently leading a life of mere harmless pleasure, would, no doubt, reprove them for wantonly destroying such a pretty, harmless insect; and yet, if the truth was known, this pretty and much-to-be-pitied insect is the parent of all those nauseous smelling green and black spotted worms that later in the season destroy his parsley, celery, parsnips and carrots. Yet by merely crushing the parent fly at one blow early in the season, before it has deposited its egg, he will be spared the vexation of either seeing his plants devour and seed destroyed, or having the disagreeable task of picking off, one by one, some hundreds of caterpillars later in the season. This fact will be more apparent when I state how incredibly fast some insects multiply, especially in the warmer climate of the South, where there is little frost to destroy vegetable life, and there are several generations in one season. Dr. John Gamble of Tallahassee, Fla., assisted by myself, dissected a female ball-worm moth or miller, (an insect which, in the caterpillar state, is most destructive to cotton,) and we discovered a mass of eggs, which, when counted, amounted, at the least calculation, five hundred, duly hatched, for the first generation, say one half males, the rest females; the second generation, if undisturbed, would amount to 125,000, and the third be almost incalculable.

Now, these mother flies are not very numerous early in the season, owing to the birds devouring them, the rigor of winter, and various other accidental causes, and if practical means were found to destroy them as early in the spring as possible, the immense ravages of the second and third generations might be prevented. In one female (excessive) case of hang-worm, so destructive to the shade trees, I counted nearly eight hundred eggs, although the



specimens were but small. Now, were all these cases taken from every infected tree in the winter, when they can most easily be seen, owing to the fall of the leaf, and then immediately burned, the trees would be comparatively free the next season; and by following this plan or one or two years more, the work growing gradually less and less, the insects might be finally exterminated, inasmuch as the female never leaves her case, but forms her nest of eggs inside; and yet these noxious pests are suffered, year by year to increase, when so little trouble would destroy them. Other insects again have their habits, which, if fully known, would likewise lead to their destruction."—*Glover.*

#### Bones as a Manure.

In our last we spoke of bones as a manure, and of the necessity of gathering them together, and how to obtain an excellent bone dust, by dissolving them with Sulphuric Acid or Oil of Vitrol. But a singular incident, accidentally brought under our observation, leads us to the opinion that a better and cheaper solvent is at hand, requiring no other care, trouble, or expense, than the mere gathering of the bones.

Last fall a lot of bones were thrown in a heap of horse manure in the barn-yard, and for no other purpose than to get them out of sight. To this heap the manure of the horse stable was daily added. In the spring, upon carting out the manure, the bones were found apparently the same as when thrown in—whole and sound; but upon being handled, were found to be soft; when lifted would fall to pieces of their own weight; when exposed to the air would crumble and become as ashes, emitting a strong and offensive odor. This incident led to a trial of the same experiment last spring in the same manner, and with the same result.

We do not pretend to fix the chemical process by which this result is attained; we merely know that such is the result. And if a result so happy in its effects is produced at so little trouble, and with such little cost, our farmers may well spare an odd day in gathering together the old bones lying about their farms, and for the mere trouble of gathering them, add to their lands one of the most fertilizing materials that can be obtained.

Let our readers avail themselves of this suggestion, and in preparing their manure heap for the winter, have collected together a pile of old bones, and let them be scattered through your heaps where you throw your horse manure, and you will find when the manure is carted out in the spring, in place of old bones, a manufactured A. No. 1 Bone Dust.

[N. J. Farmer.]

#### Pastures.

A proper supply of pasturage is the great want of Southern husbandry. Unless the want shall be better supplied, our agriculture must continue to decline. A routine of crops which furnishes a plentiful supply of grass, hay and small grain, is essential both for successfully rearing valuable stock and improving our soils. Add to this as bountiful a supply of manure as

can by care and attention be made on the premises, and there will be a reasonable assurance for prosperity and what is independence, if not wealth.

The agricultural statistics of England show that while she has some ten millions of acres in crops, she has fifteen millions in grasses and pasturage. And there cannot be a doubt that the most profitable rural management in our country is that which furnishes the best exhibitions of Pasturages and the grasses.

They are portions of Virginia and North Carolina, which twenty years ago, were so gullied and exhausted by the continuous cultivation of the two hoe crops of Indian corn and tobacco, that the lands were difficult to sell at three and four dollars per acre. Those lands now sell at forty to one hundred dollars per acre, and are annually becoming more valuable, under a different treatment. Where formerly were seen the gaunt cow and horse, the half starved hog and sheep, are now to be found fat and improved animals of every kind; luxuriant fields of red clover, of timothy and blue grass, or rich wheat or oat fields occupying the places which were cast away as worthless; emigration is checked, and the country not less than the inhabitants, present a cheerful, pleasing and happy aspect. Now what has caused this revolution? Simply the change from the unremitted hoe crop of Indian corn and tobacco, to a judicious system of rotation, and proper attention to manure, which, while it has improved the soil, at the same time has furnished a plentiful supply of grass and hay. Add to these the increased facilities for transportation, by rail roads and plank roads, and we have a full explanation of the great reformation and transformation.

Have the net profits of the farm been diminished? The best answer to this question will be found in the enhanced value of the lands—for it is hardly probable that where lands have increased in value 100 to 150 per cent, that the profits have not advanced *pari passu*.

With such examples before him, why is it that the cotton planter will persist in his ruinous course? Is it because he believes nothing can be relied upon for stock food but Indian corn, and nothing for profit but cotton? If so, let him ask the Virginia and Carolina farmer, and they will satisfy him of his error. They will tell him that the opinion once prevailed with them that Indian corn for food, and tobacco for market, were the only reliable crops and that this was the great error of their old husbandry, which impoverished their stock and their lands, and was rapidly depleting their pockets,

How to extract the essential oil from any flower.—Take any flowers you like, which stratify with common sea-salt in a clean earthen glazed pot, When thus filled to the top, cover it well, and carry it to the cellar. Forty days afterwards put a crape over a pan, and empty the whole to strain the essence from the flowers by pressure. Bottle that essence and expose it 4 or 5 weeks in the sun, and dew of the evening to purify. One single drop of that essence is enough to scent a whole quart of water.



### Ducks---Selection, Management, &c.

Those birds who best represent what has been heretofore said on color, form and weight, of course will be those which the judicious breeder would choose for the purpose of increasing his stock.

One drake and three ducks are as many as can be judiciously kept in one yard; for a larger proportion of females, or the presence of two or more males in the same run will tend to the production of unfertile eggs.

Take care not to breed in and in to too great an extent. Like all other animal productions ducks are improved in stamina by the occasional introduction of new blood. Never keep a drake more than two years.

If possible have your ducklings hatched by ducks, and not by hens; for the habits of the hen are such as to beget an indisposition on the part of young brood to follow those habits natural to their kind—more particularly in the matter of sitting. Besides ducks reared by hens seldom fail to annoy them afterwards, and forget their own places and functions.

Be always careful to allow your ducks free access to deep water, so that they can swim in it; for, to such place they naturally resort for the purpose of having that intercourse the result of which is procreation. This provision of a depth of water is a necessary condition of fertility in eggs, and should not be neglected.

Ducks should be always penned towards sundown, receive their food apart, and kept within the enclosure until after the usual time of depositing their eggs, which is generally early in the morning. Many of them lay late at night.—Ducks should be separate from other fowls.

The best feed for ducks, under common circumstances, is steamed roots—such as carrots, turnips or mangel wurtzel, mixed with bran, or corn meal. Where there is no grass handy the refuse of the kitchen garden should be given them regularly. But, where there is a good walk, they will very generally pick sufficient animal food, slugs and worms, and vegetable sustenance as will meet their natural wants. I think that, unless every thing is favorable to the proper management of ducks it would be as well to dispense with them as stock.

I have alluded to the comparative merits of the kinds mentioned as lawyers. It is best to allow the sitting duck to make choice of the situation of her own nest, and leave her undisturbed in its possession if it is a safe position she has chosen. It is seldom that they will sit well if removed; or if she does, she will sit on the bare nest. Secret places, under knots of shrubbery, underbrush, or in the hollow of an old tree are the most attractive situations for her. Here she will form her nest, composed of grass and leaves and of her own down, and will lay her eggs, which she will carefully cover, when she leaves her incubation to a tend to the wants of nature or appetite. Twelve eggs are a sufficient number for a duck to hatch. Some incline to sit on fewer; and this disposition should, if possible, be noted, and the requisite number furnished from the more freshly

laid stock of eggs in the yard. There can be little difficulty in detecting the sitting duck who has stolen her nest; for, when she leaves it at any time, her voice denotes her vocation, while the disordered state of her feathers helps to tell the tale of her secret arrangements. She can thus be traced to her hiding-place. Care should be taken to supply her with food, at her choice; and during the latter period of incubation, it has often been found necessary to supply her at the nest—so attached does she become to her duty. The duck hatches in from 28 to 30 days; but the period varies sometimes in accordance with the prevailing temperature.

The duckling seldom demands assistance in emerging from its shell; but it is necessary that the mother and young brood should be prevented from the free use of water for a week or so after incubation has taken place. A shallow vessel filled with water should be occasionally furnished them wherein to dip their bills, but not deep enough for them to flounder and wash in. The water ought to be soft. Hard spring water is bad.

Boiled corn is the best food which can be given them during the period of their confinement—administered cold. Chopped lettuce, or other green food should be mixed with their meals. Some use bread crumbs, but corn porridge is equally as good. It would be well to allow the ducklings to feed outside the coop where the mother is confined. She seldom regards the wants of her young until she has gorged herself, and perhaps hurt some of her brood in her haste to cram her own crop.

Rains and dews are fatal to young ducks, and care should be taken not to allow them to be exposed to either, as it subjects them to cramps which leave them debilitated and useless ever afterwards, with few exceptions.

The most approved mode of fattening ducks is to feed well, and confine them to such situation as may give them access to water, but not such as they can swim in. But I would recommend a systematic course or good feeding throughout, which produces the best flesh—and a medium between uncontrolled liberty and close confinement. If garbage, fish, or other highly flavored food is used to fatten ducks they will taste of it when on the table. Ducks raised in a fishing village, when served up have "a very ancient and fish-like smell," which must be the consequence of their feeding on the refuse guts, and the waifs of the fisherman's hooks and knets.

Cramps and paralysis are the principal diseases which affect ducks; and the best cure, generally, is to kill them; for there is little hope of their recovering from a severe affection of this sort. As they are gluttonous feeders, and require considerable quantities of small stones, or gravel, to aid their digestion, they sometimes pick up minerals of a poisonous nature. There is, however, little risk from this evil in those instances where natural privileges favor the proper keeping of ducks; and, as I said before, where these are not present, it were best to decline the cultivation of this kind of stock. Noxious water, too, sometimes proves fatal in its use; but, where this is, it is not very



probable that duck keeping will be prosecuted to any height.—*Exchange.*

#### Apples for Food.

Apples are not mere luxuries that we may eat for pleasure, or let alone. Apples are food—excellent, nutritious, wholesome food—food suited to all ages and conditions of life, better than any other catalogue of articles, consumed by mankind. Sick or well, if properly prepared, we can all eat apples. The babe in the cradle, or the old and toothless grandmother, can eat a roasted apple. Everybody can, everybody should eat apples. Now hear what Prof. Liebig says about apples, and then perhaps everybody will eat them; and every one who owns land should grow them:

"The importance of apples as food has not hitherto been sufficiently estimated or understood. Besides contributing a large portion of sugar, mucilage and other nutritive matter in the form of food, they contain such a fine combination of vegetable acids, extractive substances and aromatic principles, with the nutritive matter, as to act powerfully in the capacity of refrigerants, tonics, and antiseptics; and when freely used at the season of ripeness, by rural laborers and others, they prevent debility, strengthen digestion, correct the putrefactive tendencies of nitrogenous food, avert scurvy, and probably maintain and strengthen the powers of productive labor. The operators of Cornwall consider ripe apples nearly as nourishing as bread, and more so than potatoes. In the year 1801, a year of scarcity, apples, instead of being converted into cider, were sold to the poor, and the laborers asserted that they could stand their work on baked apples without meat; whereas, a potato diet required either meat or fish. The French and Germans eat apples extensively; indeed it is rare that they sit down, in the rural districts, without them, in some shape or other, even at the best tables. The laborers and mechanics depend on them to a very great extent, as an article of food, and frequently dine on sliced apples and bread. Stewed with rice, red cabbage, carrots, or by themselves, with a little sugar and milk, they make both a pleasant and nutritious dish."

[N. Y. Tribune.]

*Origin of the Catawba Grape.*—Mr. Mosher, President of the American Wine Grower's Association of Cincinnati, has traced the origin of the Catawba grape to Murraysville North Carolina, where they were growing in great abundance in 1852. Mr. Mosher in a communication to the Horticultural Review, says:

[Northwestern Farmer.]

"In 1807, Gen. Davy, a Senator in Congress, then living at Rocky Mount, on the Catawba river, South Carolina, in the bounds of the Catawba nation of Indians, transplanted some of these grapes to his residence; and sometime between the years 1807 and 1816, he took some of them with him to Washington, gave them the name of the Catawba Grape, and disseminated them among his friends in Maryland. From this source it is probable they fell into the possession of Mrs. Schell, from whom Major Aldum obtained them, and made wine of them in 1822. In 1822, he sent the vines with some of the wine, to Mr. Longworth, of Cincinnati."

#### Blue Ridge Rail Road.

Mr. Gregg, it seems, is not satisfied with his laborious efforts before the Legislature, to kill the Blue Ridge Rail Road off. But now that he finds an effort being made by its friends in its favor, a new emission of his speech is published and sent throughout the land, in order, no doubt, to act as a damper, but we trust for the good of Charleston and of the whole State, that it will fail to produce the desired effect.

Below we extract from the "*Courier*" a showing and important article on the subject.

#### Mr. Gregg and the Blue Ridge Rail Road.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 12.

The *Courier* of yesterday morning has favored the Charleston public with the speech of this gentleman, delivered at the last session of the Legislature. The particular occasion of its publication, seems to be the effort now being made by the friends of the Blue Ridge Road to urge on that enterprise. On such an occasion, the praise bestowed upon Mr. Gregg's speech by the Georgia papers, furnishes a fair test of its value. The Blue Ridge Rail Road has been undertaken mainly to establish a route upon which South Carolina could have fair competition with the route now under the control of the State of Georgia and the city of Augusta. The praise given to Mr. Gregg by the Augusta journals, comes from those who would destroy the Carolina route, and shows the people of Charleston the due value of its statements. It is in fact like the commendation bestowed upon Fremont and his party by the English journals during the late Presidential canvass.

If we examine the arguments of Mr. Gregg, they will be found to be of some dangerous and unreliable character. Mr. Gregg objects to the Blue Ridge Rail Road chiefly on the ground of its great cost, and yet in the same breath, he speaks approvingly of a new road to be made the whole distance to Charleston, or even of an entirely new road to Port Royal or Beaufort. If Mr. Gregg believes it good policy to go from Charleston to the West by an entirely new road for whole distance, by what rule of logic can he establish it to be inexpedient to accept the roads as ready made for one half the distance, and merely finish the other half.—The Blue Ridge Road assumes the South Carolina and Greenville Rail Roads as part of its route, and merely completes the gap across the mountains to Knoxville. Mr. Gregg declares this to be impracticable and inexpedient, and proposes another, which shall fill up the gap, and undertakes, as an addition the entire line already made. Is it not obvious that some object must be in Mr. Gregg's view other than the mere making the road. Why not make use of the South Carolina Rail Road as far as it runs? Why not use the Greenville Rail Road as far as Anderson? if it be more expedient to shorten this latter road, why not make a road from Aiken to Ninety Six, and thus save the expense of an entirely new road from Charleston to Anderson.

Why forego all the advantages which are af-



forded by existing rail roads. It certainly looks as though those roads were to be punished by a competition and that the Blue Ridge Rail Road was to be chastised for using them as adjuncts instead of coming down on them as an adversary. As well as we can gather from Mr. Gregg's speech, he favors a Blue Ridge Rail Road which would start from Charleston, but is opposed to one which starts from Anderson. Such sentiments the Augusta papers may consider wise and judicious, but we in South Carolina must ask leave to think differently, and even to doubt whether the Georgians would maintain their opinion if they believed that a new road from Charleston to the Blue Ridge would be started in earnest.

Mr. Gregg, like other men, may have his prejudices, and possibly may have some scores to settle with the South Carolina Rail Road. We have heard that Graniteville has considered itself slighted, and there was some trouble about the inclined plane which has left its mark. But none of these matters have any bearing upon a great public interest. Nothing can be clearer than that it is easier and cheaper, to make a road over, than over a whole distance, and our only purpose at present, is to insist that Mr. Gregg answers himself, when he admits and advocates the expediency of making a new road, to start from Charleston to the West, over the Blue Ridge. They believed that a new road from Charleston to the Blue Ridge, would be started in earnest.

Mr. Gregg may have cause of complaint against the South Carolina Rail Road which may be with or without just cause. He may suppose that Graniteville has not been sufficiently cared for, or that the inclined plane has been injudiciously exchanged for the present route. But none of these matters have any just bearing upon the great public interest now at stake. They may have to explain, however, why Mr. Gregg should maintain that it is better to make a road for the whole distance west, instead of making one for half the distance. But when that half turns out to be the very one undertaken by the Blue Ridge Rail Road Company, Mr. Gregg answers his own arguments, and becomes in fact, an advocate of the Blue Ridge Rail Road. The people of Charleston must see, that if Mr. Gregg can see good reason for a railroad from Beaufort over the Blue Ridge, there can exist no reason why such a road from Charleston should not be equally beneficial and proper in his judgment, except it be that that judgment has been turned aside by some influence.

A LOOKER-ON IN VENICE.

#### The Education of Husbands.

The *London Punch*, a humorous and instructive paper, has an article on the education of husbands, which we propose to copy:

[*Valley Farmer.*]

"How suggestive is the new year of bills, and bills of housekeeping! It is fearful to reflect how many persons rush into matrimony totally unprepared for the awful change that awaits them. A man may take a wife at twenty-one, before he knows the difference between a chip

and a leghorn. We would no more grant a license to anybody simply because he is of age, than a license on that ground only to practice as an apothecary. Husbands ought to be educated. We would like to have the following questions put to young, inexperienced persons about to marry.

Are you aware, sir, of the price of coal and candles?

Do you know which is the most economical, fitch, bone, or the round?

How far, young man, will a leg of mutton go in a small family?

How much dearer, now, is silver than Britannia?

Please to give the average price of a four poster

Declare if you can, rash youth, the sum per annum that chemisettes, pelerines, cardinals, bonnets, veils, capes, ribbons, flowers, gloves, cuffs, and collars would come to in the lump?

If unable to answer these enquiries, we would say to him, "Go back to school."

He that would be a husband should also undergo a training, physical and moral. He should be further examined, thus:

Can you read or write amid the noise and yells of a nursery?

Can you wait any given time for breakfast?

Can you maintain your serenity during a washing day?

Can you cut your old friends?

Can you stand being contradicted in the face of all reason?

Can you keep your temper when you are not listened to?

Can you do what you are told without being told why?

In one word, young man, have you the patience of Job?

If you can lay your hand upon your heart and answer "yes," take your license and marry—not else.

#### Effects of Heat upon Meat.

A well cooked piece of meat should be full of its own juice or natural gravy. In roasting, therefore, it should be exposed to a quick fire, that the external surface may be made to contract at once, and the albumen to coagulate, before the juice has had time to escape from within. And so in boiling. When a piece of beef or mutton is plunged into boiling water, the outer part contracts, the albumen, which is near the surface, coagulates, and the internal juice is prevented either from escaping into the water by which it is surrounded, or from being diluted or weakened by the admission of water among it. When cut up, therefore, the meat yields much gravy, and is rich in flavor. Hence a beefsteak or mutton chop is done quickly and over a quick fire, that the natural juices may be retained. On the other hand, if the meat be exposed to a slow fire, its pores remain open, the juice continues to flow from within, as it has dried from the surface, and the flesh pines, and becomes dry, hard and unsavory. Or if it be put into cold or tepid water, which is afterwards gradually brought to a boil, much of the



albumen is extracted before it coagulates, the natural juices for the most part flow out, and the meat is served in a nearly tasteless state. Hence, to prepare good boiled meat, it should be put at once into water already brought to a boil. But to make beef tea, mutton broth, and other meat soups, the flesh should be put into cold water, and this afterwards very slowly warmed, and finally boiled. The advantage derived from simmering, a term not frequent in cookery books, depends very much upon the effects of slow boiling as above explained.

[*Chemistry of Common Life.*]

*Effects of Color upon Health.*—From several year's observation in rooms of various sizes, used as manufacturing rooms, and occupied by females for twelve hours per day, I found that the workers who occupied these rooms which had large windows with large panes of glass, in the four sides of the room so that the sun's rays penetrated through the room during the whole day, were much more healthy than the workers who occupied rooms lighted from one side only, or rooms lighted through very small panes of glass. I observed another very singular fact—viz., that the workers who occupied one room, who were very cheerful and healthy, while the occupiers of another similar room, who were employed on the same kind of work, were all inclined to melancholy, and complained of pain in the forehead and eyes, and were often ill and unable to work. Upon examining the rooms in question I found they were both equally well ventilated and lighted. I could not discover any thing about the drainage of the premises that could affect the one room more than the other; but I observed that the room occupied by the cheerful workers was wholly whitewashed, and the room occupied by the melancholy was colored with yellow ochre. I had the yellow ochre all washed off, and the walls and ceiling whitewashed. The workers ever after felt more cheerful and healthy.

[*Correspondent of the Builder.*]

*Scarlatina.*—A prescription for the sure cure of small pox scarlatina, and measles, has been published by a member of the royal college of surgeons, London. It is reported to have been tested with invariable success in innumerable instances, and the recipe is as follows: Take one grain of powdered foxglove or digitalis—valuable in the ratio of its greenness—and the same quantity of sulphate of zinc or white vitriol; rub thoroughly in a mortar with a few drops of water; add four ounces of water and a little sugar. Of this mixture, a table-spoon full should be given an adult, and two teaspoon fulls to a child, every second hour, until the symptoms of disease vanish. The herb annihilates the fever, and the zinc acts as a tonic.

*To prevent Fruit Trees from Splitting.*—For preventing forked trees from splitting under their weight of fruit, Isaac Lewis, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, has given us his plan. "My plan," he writes, "which I have followed for thirty years, is this:—When I find a forked tree that is likely to split, I look for a small limb of each fork, and clean them of leaves and lateral branches for most of their length. I then carefully bring them together, and wind them around each other, from one main branch to the other. In twelve months they will have united, and in two years the ends can be cut off. The brace

will grow as any other part of the tree, and as a perfect security from splitting. I have them now of all sizes, and I scarcely ever knew one to fail to grow."

*Blacking for Harness.*—Melt four ounces of mutton suet with twelve ounces of beeswax; add twelve ounces of sugar candy, four ounces of soft soap dissolved in water, and two ounces of indigo finely powdered. When melted and well mixed, add half a pint of turpentine. Lay it on the harness with a sponge, and polish off with a brush.

Here is another recipe:—Take three sticks of the best black sealing-wax dissolved in half a pint of spirits of wine; to be kept in a glass bottle, and well shaken previous to use. Applied with a soft sponge.

Another recipe for black varnish is the following. Best sealing-wax, half an ounce; rectified spirits of wine, two ounces; powder the sealing-wax, and put it in with the spirits of wine, into a four ounce phial; digest them in a said heat or near the fire, till dissolved. Lay it on warm with a fine hair brush. Spirits of turpentine may be used instead of spirits of wine.

From the New England Farmer.  
*White-washing Roofs.*

*Messrs. Editors.*—In the *Farmer* of 23d Feb. Mr. Orrin P. Allen, of Proctorsville, Vt., makes the inquiry whether whitewash would not be a good preservative for the roof of a building. In answer, I will tell my first experiment. About twenty years ago, we built a barn, and for the want of better shingles, I used those made mostly of the sap wood of white pine; previous to laying of them, they were dipped into a large kettle of boiling hot white wash, well salted, till well soaked, and laid on to the roof after being dried. Now after nineteen or twenty years, those shingles are apparently sound and the roof tight; had they been applied without the antiseptic steep, they would probably have been rotted in five years, if they had shared the fate of those applied to some of my other buildings. The time that the shingles ought to continue in the whitewash, must be decided by further experience.

Another advantage besides the preservation of shingles is the fire-proof tendency of the salt combined with the whitewash, which we all know is a damper to fire.

S. BROWN.

Wilmington, Feb., 28, 1856.

*How to Decompose Bones.*—If one lives in a city, and has but a small yard, with nice trees and shrubs, the quantity of manure needed will not be great. He should throw the bones, egg shells, &c., of the kitchen into a barrel, and throw on them wood ashes and water, which will dissolve them without any smell, and in the course of a year make a great deal of very best manure for all sorts of fruit trees. If he has a large farm or garden, and has access to large quantities of bones, he may decompose them as did the neighbor of a correspondent of the New England Farmer. He made layers of horse manure and bones alternately until the pile was several feet high; this he



covered with manure. The pile heated, or fire-fanged, and in a short time no sign of a bug could be seen.

Farmers, clean up your door yards, and by this process, the manure will be just the thing for your turnip patch.—*Exchange.*

*To increase the sharpness and strength of Vinegar.*—Boil two quarts of good vinegar, till reduced to one; then put it in a vessel and set it in the sun for a week. Now mix the vinegar with six times its quantity of bad vinegar in a small cask: it will not only mend it, but make it strong and agreeable.

*To make Mutton Suet Candles, in imitation of Wax.*—Throw quick-lime in melted mutton suet; the lime will fall to the bottom, and carry along with it all the dirt of the suet, so as to leave it as pure and as fine as wax itself.

Now if to one part of the suet, you mix three of real wax, you will have a very fine, and to appearance a real wax candle, at least the mixture could never be discovered, nor even in the moulding way for ornaments.

*Blacking, to Make.*—Put 1 gallon of vinegar into a stone jug, add 1 lb. of ivory-black, well pulverized,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a lb. of loaf sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  an oz. of oil of vitriol, and 1 oz. of sweet oil; incorporate the whole by stirring.

This is a blacking of very great repute in different countries, and on which great praise has been very deservedly bestowed. It has decidedly been ascertained, from experience, to be less injurious to the leather, than most public blackings; and it certainly produces a fine jet polish, which is rarely equalled, and never yet surpassed.

*To render Boots and Shoes water-proof.*—Take one pint of drying oil, two ounces of yellow wax, two ounces spirits of turpentine, and half an ounce of Burgundy pitch, melt them over a slow fire, and thoroughly incorporate them by stirring. Lay this mixture on new shoes and boots, either in the sun or at some distance from the fire, with a sponge or brush, and repeat the operation as often as they become dry, until they are fully saturated. The shoes and boots thus prepared, ought not be worn until the leather has become perfectly dry and elastic. They will then be found impervious to moisture, and their durability will be increased.

*To Make Potatoe Yeast.*—Pare, and boil very tender, fifteen medium sized potatoes, mash fine while hot, add one large spoonful of flour, and two spoonfuls of sugar, stir them in, and pour on boiling water (it must be boiling,) to make it a thin batter. When luke-warm, stir in one teacup of common yeast, and set it in a warm place to stand over night. This yeast will keep good two weeks in cold weather, but in summer should be made fresh for use. This quantity is sufficient to make eight large loaves, and is preferable for biscuit, muffins, rusk, etc., to any other kind. In using, it should be strained through a colander by pouring the milk upon it, to free it from any lumps of potato

which remain unmashed. Much is said and written of the injurious effects of saleratus in cooking, and we can assure those who will try it, that their bread or cakes made in this way, will be better without it than with it. Bread made with this yeast retains its freshness and is tender and good much longer than with common yeast.

*To take spots out of Silk.*—Rub the spots with spirits of turpentine: this spirit exhaling, carries off with it the oil that causes the spot.

*To render Cloth, wind and rain proof.*—Boil together 2 lbs. of turpentine, and 1 lb. of litharge in powder, and 2 or 3 pints of linseed oil. The article is then to be brushed over with this varnish, and dried in the sun.

*A Cement for broken Earthenware.*—Take 1 oz. of dry cream cheese grated fine, and an equal quantity of quick-lime mixed well together, with 3 oz. of skimmed milk, to form a good cement, when the rendering of the joint visible is of no consequence. If mixed without the milk, it perhaps might be stronger still.

*Soda Water, to make.*—Take 20 grains tartaric acid, 25 grains super-carbonate of soda: dissolve a lump of sugar, on which you have poured a drop of oil of lemon in two wine-glass fulls of water: add the tartaric acid: stir it till dissolved. Then dissolve the carbonate of soda in the like quantity of water, and pour the two solutions quickly together, and drink them off as rapidly as possible.

*A cement which answers for cast Iron Pipes, or wooden Logs.*—Take 12 or 14 lbs. of fine cast iron borings, put them in a vessel with as much water as will just wet them through; mix with them  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of bounded sal ammoniac, and 2 oz. of flour of sulphur; mix all well together, and let stand three or four hours: they are then ready for use. If not used immediately cover them with water till used.

*To make White-wash that will not rub off.*—Mix up half a pail full of lime and water, ready to put on the wall; then take  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint of flour, mix it up with water, then pour on it boiling water a sufficient quantity to thicken it; then pour it; while hot, into the white-wash; stir all well together, and it is ready.

#### Lime Water in Making Bread.

In Bread-making, the various fermentation sometimes passes into the acid, thus rendering the bread sour and disagreeable. Leibig has lately performed a series of experiments to improve the preparation of bread, from which he comes to the conclusion, that the only effective and innocuous means of improving the qualities of wheat and rye bread, is lime water. In making dough he advises one pint of clear lime water to be used for every five pounds of flour. The lime water is first added to the flour, after which a sufficient quantity of common water is added to work the whole into good common



dough—the leaven being mixed water can be prepared by stirring some quick lime into a vessel containing pure cold water, then allowing the sediment to settle. The clear is then poured off and kept in bottles for use. No care is required respecting the quantity of lime, to be stirred in the water, as it will only take a certain quantity of lime, and no more. Those who use *saleratus* (bicarbonate of soda) in the raising of bread, are recommended to cease its use, and employ pure baker's yeast and a little lime water. Our bones are composed of the phosphate of lime, and those who use fine flour require for their health a little more than is contained in their food. Cream of tartar and carbonate of soda are inferior to common yeast for making healthy bread.—*Scientific American*.



## The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. VIII, No. 3, : : : : March, 1857.

### Acknowledgments.

The Hon. J. J. EVANS, our most worthy Senator in Congress, and the Hon. C. MASON, Commissioner of Patents, will accept our many thanks for books and Patent Office Seeds recently received, a part of which will be distributed amongst our neighbors.

To D. REDMOND, Esq., Editor of the "Southern Cultivator," we are greatly indebted for the receipt of a package of the "Chinese Prolific Pea." See advertisement of Messrs. PLUMB & LEITNER, with a copy of testimonials of its value, from which we can but come to the conclusion that it is a most valuable acquisition to our forage plants, as well as to the renovators of Southern soils.

### Post Masters.

MICHAEL WERTS, formerly P. M. at Shop Spring, S. C., is no longer an agent for the Farmer and Planter. Says: "I am off like a jug handle." No sort of objection, Mr. WERTS, you have read our paper free, now for four years for your agency, which no other Post Master that we now recollect, has exacted of us, though we have offered it to many, a few of whom

have accepted the offer, but such have done us ample service for the favor. We consider all Post Masters our agents to receive and forward payments for our paper, and for which service but very few have demanded payment. Nor is it proper, we think, that they should, but in case he is requested to take upon himself the collection of accounts, or the getting up of subscribers to the paper, we think him honestly entitled to compensation for his services, and will at all times take pleasure in allowing him to retain the same that we give our travelling agents, which is 10 per cent. for collecting and forwarding from old subscribers, and 20 per cent. for each new subscriber obtained at \$1.00. Other persons may avail themselves of the same offer, by sending us 80 cents with the name of each new subscriber.

### Weeds---Continued.

"Laurens," who comes out in favor of weeds, has been received, and as we desire to pay our very best respects to him, we prefer to postpone the publication of his article till our next number.

We are glad that this subject which we regard secondary in importance to none in the whole range of Agricultural topics, has at last excited some attention. We even prefer that our views which we have presented in several previous numbers of our paper, should be controverted, than that they should fall dead for the want of interest in them. The subject is now fairly open for discussion and we invite contributors to come forward and express their views through our columns. The question is, are weeds beneficial or injurious to land and our crops? whether they should continue to be tolerated in our system of culture, or whether they should not give way to some substitute which may be found, and which we propose to adopt? whether Southern agriculture which may be said to form an exception to any other system of agriculture in the world in this respect, can be defended? We think not. Our columns are open however to those who think differently. We invite a full, free, and temperate discussion on the subject.

### All the Decency.

We have received from the Post Master at Tylersville, Laurens District, our January number sent to the address of W. H. LANGSTON, who owes us for two volumes, \$2.00, with the following endorsement on the cover: "You will please not send Enncy More of These as the Subscriber Sais he Will bedameb if he will



Take them out of the Office." We copy as near as possible, and would advise Mr. LANGSTON to call down the same imputation on himself, should he not in future pay his debts to the printer, as an honest man should do before stopping his paper.

#### Mr. Gregg's Speech.

Since penning the remarks accompanying the article from the "Courier," by "A Looker-on in Venice," which will be found on another page, we find in the "Courier" of a later date, the following, going to show that the Editor re-published the speech "of his own free will and accord." The Editor professes, we believe, to be in favor of the Blue Ridge Rail Road enterprise, and if so, the advocates of the road may well say, "save us from our friends."

"Mr. Gregg's Speech on the Blue Ridge Rail Road.—From a remark in the communication of "A Looker-on in Venice," in yesterday's *Courier*, there seems to be an implication, that the publication of Mr. Gregg's speech against the Blue Ridge Rail Road, in this journal, was *timed*, with a special reference to the efforts, now in progress, to urge on that great enterprise to a "consummation most devoutly to be wished." We deem it but just to Mr. Gregg to say that the publication of his speech was entirely of our own motion, as a courtesy and a tribute justly due to an able opponent of a favorite measure."

#### To Correspondents.

We have on hand several communications which came too late for our March number. Shall appear in April. To our old friend, W. M. P., we are due an apology in not getting in his first article, sent us in due time. We thought we had handed it with other communications to our publisher, but it turns out we reserved it for some remarks to accompany, and afterwards neglected handing it in. Our friends will please forward their communications by or before the middle of the month, if they desire their appearance in the next month's issue. Another favor we ask of writers is, to give their productions a head, least we may stick an illegitimate one upon it. In order to index *correctly*, we must have a suitable caption to each article. Write as plain as possible, for even printers cannot read everything, and do sometimes supply an improper substitute for a word intended or pretended to be written.

#### Super Phosphate of Lime.

Having made some experiments with this "fertilizer," as it is termed, we consider it a duty we owe to our readers, to put them on their guard against its use, for we assure them in sev-

eral experiments made on wheat and turnips, the game has not been worth the ammunition. On turnips, having mixed with leached ashes, 4 measures of ashes to one of bone dust, we applied at the rate of 150 pounds to the acre of bone dust, in drills. Two drills were left with nothing but the ashes with which the seed was mixed to drill them, (about the same measure to the drill that was mixed with the bone dust). In other words, the bone dust was left out in these two drills. On gathering the turnips in December, those taken from these two drills were thrown together, and those from two other drills, one on each side of the two, and which had received the bone dust in addition to the ashes, were also thrown together; and on measurement, we found a difference in favor of the two drills which had no bone dust, of about one-sixth, or say 16 per cent. From this experiment it seems the bone dust actually done an injury instead of benefitting the turnips. It is proper to remark that the fall was very dry, which cut the turnip crop generally short of what otherwise would have been, and this may account for the failure of the anticipated effects of the bone dust, as we term it.

Another experiment was made with Ruta Bagas. We mixed of coal dust and woods mold, 2 bushels with  $\frac{1}{2}$  a bushel of bone dust, or in the proportion of 4 to 1. Of this mixture we gave one peck to the drill, (56 drills to the acre,) which required 14 bushels of the mixture to the acre, including 2 and eight-tenths bushels of bone-dust. But in this experiment we were defeated on account of the worthlessness of the seed which we had purchased—not more, probably, than one in a hundred came up, and hence the stand was so bad that we made no measurement, but the manured drills were decidedly better than were those without manure; and this result might reasonably have been expected from the coal dust and woods mold alone that was applied.

On the 28th of November, we dibbled into the drills, skipping the turnips as we came to them, at from 6 to 8 inches apart, some Patent Office Wheat, "Pithusian," "Algerian," and "Spanish Spring," and a large variety of rye, the product of all of which was so inconsiderable that we made no estimate of it.

We have, to some extent, also used the bone dust on our crop wheat, but usually mixed with Kettlewell's Salts, or cotton seed, or Plaster of Paris, and sometimes with all, with decided benefit to the crop, but we are not able to say what part the bone dust played in bringing about the result. No doubt it assisted some, but *will it pay?* We used Horr & Co.'s Super Phosphate.



For the Farmer and Planter.

## Cora Manuring--Inquiry.

MR. EDITOR:—I desire to propound a query through your very valuable paper, the explanation of which will not be without profit to a great many in this rich and luxuriant District. It is your power to satisfy me that I am laboring under a mistake; I will be very thankful that you have convinced me of the error of my way. The question that I wish to propose for consideration, is simply this, Which is the most profitable plan of applying manure to corn, when planting, or when the corn is from half leg to knee high? which is in the last case about the latter part of May, in this country. I have always applied my manure about the last of May, though a great many of my neighbors differ with me, but I have noticed that the most successful of our planters apply their manure the same as I do. It would be folly in me to pretend to say that I was a good planter; nevertheless I have made corn for sale very nearly every year since I have been farming, and you know this is a cotton country. We never plant more corn than we think will yield enough to last us through the year, so that we can plant the more cotton; and this is the way that I have always applied my manure, cotton seed particularly. I would like to hear from you soon, or from any one of your readers that can give an anxious enquirer some hint on the subject above mentioned.

Plowstock.

Williamsburg Dist., January 29, 1857.

REMARKS.—Will such of our readers as have made experiments in the application of manure to corn, respond to the call of our friend, "Plowstock?" Such enquiries sometimes get up interesting and profitable discussions, just such as we need in an agricultural journal.

We have known very favorable results from the application of cotton seed to the hill after the corn was a foot or two high, but we have seen no comparative experiments on the same field and in the same seasons to test the hill or broadcast application. In applying manures generally we decidedly prefer, and especially if we have a fair supply for the land, broadcasting. It is, however, a universally admitted fact that manure, even a small quantity, applied in or on the hill at the time of planting, will, by giving the corn a more vigorous start, enable it to appropriate to itself more food from the soil than if it had been stunted for want of sufficient nourishment when young. But for perfecting the crop, we would greatly prefer having the manure regularly distributed throughout the soil, to every part of which the feeding roots of the corn go in search of it after they have left the hill. It is thought by some if cotton seed are plowed in broadcast at the time of breaking the land for corn, that their otherwise good effects are exhausted before the crop is matured, but of this we have doubts, knowing from experience how well they hold out when applied to wheat and other small grain crops. And upon the whole, would prefer plowing in the cotton seed in the winter or early spring, to prevent germination, which would destroy their effects as a manure, and in planting to put a small quantity of well rotted manure in or on the hill, to give the corn a start and enable it to send out its feeders in search of the cotton seed. Just as we would feed a pig well when young, and then turn him out in a forest

of good mast or a pea field and say, "root hog or die."—Ed. F. & P.

For the Farmer and Planter.

## The State Fair--Plantation Police, &amp;c.

MR. EDITOR:—In common with the mass of our citizens, I was much gratified at the exhibition made at the Fair in Columbia, in November last, and I cannot but congratulate the official officers on its success, much of which was certainly due to their untiring zeal in the cause. It has not been my privilege to spend a more pleasant time in years, and I anticipate much good to result from it. That we are in great need of some such stimulus cannot be longer disguised. Our Agriculture is in a low state, and I fear will be difficult of resuscitation, not but we might advance, but rather that we choose to remain stationary or retrograde.

I shall leave the main question introduced for you, sir, and otherable minds, and say a word in relation to our *plantation police*. Many of our most worthy citizens are large slave owners relieved by inheritance and but few of them will, and others can not give their *personal attention*, consequently overseers have to be employed, and few, very few of them are worthy of confidence even in the management of the plantation and its daily operations, and are still much more deficient in exercising a wholesome and proper discipline over the *operatives*, which is the true secret to success and happiness. My word for it, that any thing short of a rigid, restraining discipline promptly enforced, and pleasure and profit in Agricultural pursuits will be sought for and expected in vain. And I do now most solemnly appeal to every citizen of the South to commence and do his entire duty upon this subject. My appeal is to all, both owner and agent. Your own interest, and that of your neighbor especially, and posterity demands it of you, say nothing of the benefits that will accrue to the well governed negro.

The greatest curse to our prosperity and happiness, and the most insurmountable barrier in good discipline is met with in *shops and dram cellars*, mostly, too in the hands of foreigners more whose intentions are to make money at any and every hazard, regardless alike of their own characters and happiness of the slave and his owner. I have neither time nor patience to investigate their conduct fully, nor need I do so, as it is of daily occurrence. And I am sure language would fail me in expressing my contempt of their course of conduct. Open, undisguised Abolitionist, would merit kind treatment in comparison with them, and perdition has no punishment too severe for their debasing, ruinous and damning deeds. The bare idea of a citizen of a *slave State*, concealing himself in the *dark of night*, pandering to the appetite of his *neighbors slave*, taking from him *stolen goods*, and in exchange, giving him *Whiskey*, thus inducing *theft, drunkenness*, and in many instances *murder*, leading on to the most corrupt soul-destroying consequences, is an enormity and crime unequalled in the black catalogue of *northern crime*, especially when their social privileges are taken into the account as the *offender is protected* and free by the laws he so wantonly despises and tramples under foot. Another strange feature in our people is, that they can,



not abide the slightest interference from northern abolitionists, but they can, and do allow daily men equally obnoxious to our institutions without complaint or effort to stay their nefarious deeds, notwithstanding the result upon the conduct of our negroes is unmistakably evident. Who, let me ask, is not aware that negroes are allowed greater latitude now, than they were ten years ago, and who is prepared to say that they are more happy now than formerly? It is certainly true of the whole race, that a rigid, close and temperate discipline is indispensable to their government and happiness, and the eye that is too blind to see it, is derelict in duty to itself, and the continued happiness of the slaves. The exercise of a loose discipline upon any of our large plantations for a few years, inevitably leads to its ruin, and generally results in their entire overthrow; the consequence is, the operatives are sold and dispersed families separated, and all the evils so glowingly portrayed by Mrs. Stowe, are enacted and who is to blame? certainly the *mistaken master*, and who are injured? both parties to some extent, but in very many instances the foolish slave never thinks until he opens his eye beneath a burning sun, amid epidemics, and in the hands of a western owner, such as the notorious *Legare* of Stowe repute, if such ever did exist, of which I am by no means certain. Now sir, if the opinions advanced are correct, how culpable the owner is, who suffers his negroes thus tampered with and indirectly justifies their utter ruin. Our Lord in his beautiful prayer, teaches us to pray, "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Our negroes unfortunately have neither the disposition nor the right to abolish the evil, *but we have*, and we are traitors to ourselves, and to those whose destiny, to some extent, is in our keeping, if we longer suffer such offenders in our midst, and we justly incur the displeasure of every philanthropic mind and the retributive punishment of a righteous Providence, by whom they have been placed in our hands C.

For the Farmer and Planter.  
An Agent's Experience.

MR. EDITOR:—Some two years ago, you sent me accounts to the amount of \$24.00 as near as I now recollect. I availed myself of the first opportunity to see the men. I called on Mr. G., he said he was tired of the thing, and if I would get his account, and stop the paper, he would pay me on sight. Before I left his house, I wrote to you—the account was received in due time, I then rode ten miles to his house to see him, as I had promised; he said he had the money, but the fact was, he could not pay it then, but he would the next time he saw me. It has not come yet. I have notified him that if it is not forthcoming in three weeks, that his name shall go on the black list.

Next I called on Mr. S., who had a receipt from your former agent, and a specification in that receipt, that his paper was to be discontinued

at the end of the year. That was all right, so I passed on.

Next I rode seventeen miles, to see Mr. M., introducing myself to him as agent; he said yes, he was owing something, but he could not make the change, but would leave it in town for me in a short time. That is the last of him.

Next Mr. F., oh! yes I'll pay you in a few days. That is the last of him.

Next Mr. B., yes, sir, I owe it, (and here is the dollar, that lay in the drawer until a few days ago,) when he came up to me, and said, it is time I had paid for the Farmer and Planter. I have read it and profited thereby. The fact is, he is the right kind of a man.

Thus the catalogue runs. I had rather wind up an estate of some thousands of dollars, than collect a very few out standing accounts for an Editor. Now I would like to know why it is, that men don't pay for all their reading matter, as they do other matters. I can only account for it on the principle that it is a small matter. If I had called on either of the above gentlemen for the collection of a note of hand for \$1000, or twice that amount, it would have come long ago. Yet the Editor needs his pay as well as any body else, and the fact is, he ought to have it. I don't wonder that the Editor loses his temper once and a while. AN AGENT.

REMARKS.—No, friend "Agent," nor ought any one to wonder at it, for such treatment as the Editor receives at the hands of his unprincipled subscribers at times, is enough to make a preacher "swear." Even honest men are often times too neglectful of the printer's bill. And merely because it is a small matter, and of no great importance, but they should recollect that the printer's income, is made up of small matters, that "many mickles make a muckle." And hence the greater necessity for their punctuality. As for a dishonest scoundrel who will take and read a paper from one to seven years, then order it "stopped," and refuse to pay for it, he is too contemptible a being to be allowed to associate with honest men, let alone being countenanced by them. His proper place is on the black list, and whenever you may send the names of any such to us, there they shall go with a list we are now making up of the same kind of cattle. ED. F. & P.

To Preserve Lard Sweet.—Instead of putting it into large vessels, put it in stone crocks, or jars, of from one to four gallons each: when cooling or thickening, put in your salt, which will mix through the lard, instead of settling on the bottom of the crock. The next day take clean bits of cotton cloth, rather larger than the top of the vessel, and after putting it smoothly down, and pressing the edges snugly around so as to exclude all air, pack in a close layer of salt, then lay over another piece of cotton cloth, and turn over it a plate or a cover which will fit tightly; then tie over two thicknesses of paper, and set it in a cool, dry place. In this way I have kept lard perfectly sweet eighteen



months. Cocks of butter should be kept in the same way.—*Cor. of Michigan Farmer.*

### To the Citizens of South Carolina.

The interest which the people of our State have lately evinced on the subject of agricultural improvement, encourages us to address you this communication. We are in favor of the establishment of an Agricultural college in South Carolina; and, in giving the reasons which have influenced our mind on this subject, we trust that we may induce others, with more means and higher abilities, to unite with us in accomplishing an object fraught with so many and great benefits to this generation, and to all posterity.

Before entering however, upon the leading subject of this address, you will, we trust, pardon a brief allusion to our past connection, with the subject of Agricultural education. In January, 1853, we issued a prospectus proposing to establish an "Agricultural and Educational Journal." Had this proposal met the approbation of the public, and received sufficient patronage to justify its publication, it would have been conducted with a view to the advancement of a permanent system of Common Schools; and in this system it was one of the writer's leading objects to introduce an elementary text book, giving full instructions on the principles of a scientific agricultural education, and thus preparing the young mind of the rising generation to understand and appreciate a knowledge of their future calling, so important to their success in life.

Notwithstanding our failure in this attempt, so impressed were we with the importance of the subject that in April, 1855, we drew up a plan of an Agricultural College, which was published in the *Fairfield Herald* by its enlightened and public spirited editor, Mr. Gailford. At that time it was our intention to visit different portions of the State and endeavor to get the friends of the cause to unite with us in accomplishing the proposed object but in the mean time, a movement was made to establish a State Agricultural Society, which has been most successfully carried out, and we determined to defer any further action on the subject of a College, with the hope that at our first annual meeting after the organization of the Society, the members of that Society would move unitedly on the subject of an Agricultural College, and by doing so, insure success. At our second annual meeting, which will be in November next, this subject will be introduced for the consideration of that enlightened and patriotic body, and it is with the view of interesting the friends of agricultural improvement in our State, and, at the same time, with the hope that those who are able and willing may come forward and give their views on the policy of such a measure and the best means of accomplishing the object proposed, that we present below the substance of the plan of an Agricultural College, published in April, 1855:

"We propose to raise by subscription, a sum not less than one hundred thousand dollars, in shares of one hundred dollars, to be invested and appropriated by a board of twelve directors or trustees elected by the stockholders, each share having one vote, at their first regular meeting after the above sum is taken up for the purpose of endowing on a permanent and secure footing, an Agricultural College, to be called the Agricultural College of South Carolina—one-half of the stock subscribed to be paid to the Board of Trustees in thirty days after their election and the organization of the Company, and the remaining half, twelve months after said organization. The funds so paid in to be deposited by the trustees, jointly, in the Bank of the State of South Carolina, and drawn out under such special regulations as shall be sanctioned and authorized by the said Trustees. And, as an undoubted guaranty that the stock paid in will be faithfully ap-

propriated for the purposes proposed, we need only say that the Trustees will be gentlemen of wealth and high standing, unconnected with commercial transactions, and devoted to the great objects intended to be effected by our association.

We would not be expected at present to give details which must and can only be the result of future consultation, but we think it due to those who may contribute to the object proposed, to sketch in a general way the outlines of the plan upon which we propose to establish the College.

1st. To purchase at some place not more than thirty miles from the centre of the State, in a locality suited to the purposes to be accomplished, such a quantity of lands as may be thought most advisable by the trustees; on this land to erect College buildings, and such other improvements as may be thought most advisable, having regard to economy, and the carrying out of the object in view; and at the same time upon such a plan as will admit of a more extended scale of improvement should the funds of the College justify and require it.

2d. Such a number of Professors appointed by the Trustees as may be thought most advisable under all the circumstances.

3d. The subjects upon which each Professor is to devote his time are to be designated by the said Trustees; the Trustees having in view a thorough, scientific and practical Agricultural education.

4th. The terms of admission, qualification, tuition, salaries, &c., &c., to be regulated by the Trustees.

5th. On the lands upon which the College buildings are erected, will be a model or experimental farm, under the care and control of a practical and experienced farmer and planter, conducted in such a way as to afford the pupils the best means of witnessing the various experiments in Agriculture, and at the same time uniting to the theory and science of Agriculture the details of practical experiment.

6th. Each stockholder who shall subscribe twenty shares, shall be authorized to send one scholar free from any charge for tuition, and for every additional twenty shares, one scholar on like condition."

In presenting the above plan of an Agricultural College, we have been influenced by a conviction that to secure the permanent improvement of the agriculture of the country we must first improve the *agriculturist himself*.

It is not enough that books be placed in the hands of those who are willing to go in the right direction; nor is it enough that periodicals devoted to the cause should be widely disseminated, or that the friends of the cause should associate and form societies; these things are well enough—may absolutely necessary to our success; but to make this success complete, general and permanent, you must enlighten and instruct the mind, and influence the taste of the young men of our country; elevate and make the pursuit of Agriculture dignified and honorable, by elevating and enlightening the mind of those engaged in its pursuit. We say *young men*, for we frankly confess that it is among and to those we look with most hope. In saying this it would be proper and just to admit that there are many honorable exceptions—men whose heads have grown gray in the courses of error and prejudice, are willing to receive the light, and are doing all in their power to advance the cause of agricultural improvement. But those who commence the work of improvement late in life, do so under many difficulties and embarrassments. Their early education has been defective—at least defective as far as a correct knowledge of the principles of the business of their lives was concerned. But the fact that this class of our citizens make the exception, proves the truth and justifies the declaration that to the young men of our country we must look for complete success.

The truth had as well be told at once. If the men who are so nobly exerting themselves to improve the



agriculture of the country, would succeed and render that success general and complete, they must lay the foundation of success in making agricultural science a study in our primary schools; and upon that broad foundation rear up and sustain a State Agricultural College, from which rays of light may be disseminated to every portion of our State, giving prosperity and happiness to our people and strength and respectability to our State, and making our beloved and native land, upon which a beneficent Creator has

"Scattered blessings with a wasteful hand," blossom like the rose. And by such material improvement, the moral condition of the people will be elevated; and where now scarcely any thing but barren wastes exist, school houses and churches will spring up, with all their accompanying social blessings.

Columbia, S. C.

SAM'L R. BLACK.

From the Ohio Cultivator.

#### A Short Chapter on Bed Making.

DEAR CULTIVATOR COLSINS:—As I was making the beds to-night, I thought, (perhaps trying to excuse myself for being such an indolent chamber-maid,) how much better it is to make them, even at this late hour, than, as some persons do, the first thing after rising; for now at least, the sheets, etc., are thoroughly aired. It is quite common among thrifty housewives, or among those who wish to have all their work "done up" at an early hour to make their beds quite early, as soon, in fact as they are vacated, taking the clothes and putting them on in great haste, without raising the windows, or exposing them to the air.

We all know that a process called insensible perspiration is all the time going on in our systems, and that our garments are permeated by it, and need to be often changed and exposed to the purifying influence of the atmosphere, to render them healthful; and I believe that in one of the articles in the *Cultivator*, it was recommended that all the garments worn during the day should be removed, and others substituted, and that none worn through the night should be worn during the day. At least, it is an excellent practice. And it is just as necessary that the sheets, pillows, etc., of our beds should be exposed to the air; but in cold weather we are apt to forget it and, as I've heard old ladies say, "run and make them while they're warm." But we should raise the windows, remove the clothes, and expose them and the bed to a current of fresh air, until the impurities shall have been removed by the purifying influence of the atmosphere, and the room filled with pure air; inasmuch as health is more important than to have the beds made early.

A. L.C.

Cherry Valley, O., Dec., 1856.

REMARK.—A very wholesome suggestion, Miss Annie, and one that need not be set to the account of an excuse for not being a smart housekeeper.—ED. OHIO CUL.

A word of kindness is seldom spoken in vain. It is a seed, which, even when dropped by chance, springs up a flower.

He that tells all he knows, will also tell what he does not know.

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July, 1855.

## NEW FIRM.

E. B. BENSON has associated with him in business his Son, THOMAS B. BENSON. They will continue the *Mercantile Business at the old Stand*, in Pendleton Village, (where the senior partner has been located for near forty years) under the name of

## E. B. BENSON &amp; SON.

They have now in Store a large stock of well assorted GOODS, and possessing facilities for purchasing GOODS as low as any, they pledge themselves not to be UNDERSOLD in any of the up country towns and villages.

E. B. BENSON,

THOS. B. BENSON.

Pendleton, January 21, 1857. [E—3M]

E. B. BENSON earnestly requests all persons indebted to him, to call and make settlement at once—and payments by 1st March next, as he will need (particularly) money at that time.

Pendleton, January 21, 1857. [3—3M]

## Premium Cotton Seed.

A FEW SACKS, containing two bushels each, can be had at two dollars if immediately applied for, from either of the following gentlemen: RICHARD O'NEALE, Columbia; J. & T. M. GRAHAM, Chester-ville; LOWRY & AVERY, Yorkville; WM. BOYD, of Charlotte, N. C.; or from the subscriber, near Winnsboro'. This Cotton was awarded two premiums at the Fair in Columbia, and has commanded *one-fourth* more in the Charleston market for several years past. It is pure 'Jethro' seed. Orders addressed to the subscriber at Winnsboro', will meet prompt attention.

B. R. COCKRELL.

March, 1857. [3—2M]

## GRAPE VINES.

## ABBEVILLE MODEL VINEYARD.

D. R. TOGNO offers for sale VINE CUTTINGS and ROOTED VINES, at the following rates:

Per 100 cuttings, Catawbas and other American varieties, sorted.....\$ 5.00  
Sorted European varieties.....\$10.00  
Rooted American varieties, each.....cents 50  
Rooted European varieties, each.....\$ 1.00  
Rooted Scuppernon, each.....\$ 1.00  
Montevino, Dec. 27, 1856. [3—1f]

## TO FARMERS AND BUTCHERS!

NOW all men by these presents, that I, J. L. N. SMITH, am now giving the highest price for GREEN AND DRY HIDES ever before offered in this country, namely:

Hides, Green, from 6½ to 7½ cents per pound.  
do. Dry, " 10 to 12½. " " "

Bring your Hides to me just as soon as you get them off the beast, and it will be better for us all.

J. L. N. SMITH.

March, '56.

[3—1f]